



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDS TO RESEARCH ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COOPERATIVES

**TEMPLE, TEXAS, May 3, 2006**—Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced approximately \$495,000 in competitive funds available to institutions of higher learning to conduct research on the economic impact of cooperatives.

“Rural communities in Texas benefit from the involvement of local cooperatives,” said Daniel. “These funds will enable USDA Rural Development to determine how cooperative businesses contribute to the economic growth of communities.”

The competitive funds will be used to establish cooperative research agreements with institutions to examine the impact of cooperatives, in cooperation with USDA Rural Development. Each agreement will include guidance on the development of a methodology for collecting and assembling basic impact data; applying the methodology to collect data and analyze the economic impact of cooperatives and other appropriate studies to examine the socio-economic impact of cooperatives on local communities. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2008.

Potential applicants are institutions of higher education; public or private colleges or universities, research foundations maintained by a college or university or private nonprofit organizations funded by a group of colleges or universities.

Application forms, guides and materials for the cooperative agreement can be found at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/reic.htm> or by contacting USDA Rural Development at (202) 690-0368; TDD: (800) 877-8339. Paper applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development National Office, postmarked no later than June 30, 2006, electronic applications to be received by same deadline date via <http://www.grants.gov>. For more information, go to: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/> and click on Available Funds.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested more than \$63 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.1 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on Business and Cooperative Programs is available by calling the Texas State Office at 254-742-9780 or by visiting us at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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